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Letter dated 10 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 10 April 1997 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 10 April 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to respond to the letters dated 26 March and 3 April 1997, respectively, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and the Greek Cypriot Chargé d'affaires a.i. at the United Nations, which were circulated as documents A/51/865-S/1997/288 and A/51/856-S/1997/278 of 8 April and 4 April 1997.

The said letters repeat the well-known allegations of the Greek Cypriot side regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia ...". I would like to reiterate emphatically that these allegations stem from the unfounded claim of the Greek Cypriot side to be the sole sovereign authority in the island and over its airspace, whereas it has no jurisdiction, control or authority whatsoever over the national territory, airspace or flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In this connection, I would also like to reiterate that flights by Turkish aircraft within the airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are a matter that concerns the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey as two sovereign independent States which recognize each other. Any attempted interference with this airspace or the flight information region is legally void and serves no other purpose than further raising tension in the island, which is already high as a result of the recent purchase by the Greek Cypriot side of the sophisticated S-300 missile system, as well as its overall militarization activity, in defiance of Security Council resolution 1092 (1996).

I would like to state, in conclusion, that at a time when efforts are being made to resume direct negotiations between the leaders of the two sides in Cyprus under United Nations auspices, this kind of politically motivated propaganda does not enhance prospects for the resumption of these negotiations and does not serve the cause of peace in the island.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus